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SECURITY INFORMATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

9 June 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Proposed National Intelligence Estimate on Communist Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action in Korea through Mid-1953

1. Over the period of the last year and particularly within the last few months there have been very substantial changes in the political and military situation in Korea. Since the publication of NIE-55 last December, this changing situation has been examined only in piecemeal fashion in fairly narrow Special Estimates (SE-20, SE-25, and SE-27).

2. The most noteworthy changes that have occurred have been the very substantial increases in Communist military strength.

3. Another development in the Korean situation which should be examined as a portent of enemy intentions is the deadlock in the armistice negotiations over the POW issue. A break-off of negotiations by either the UN or the enemy should be given serious consideration.

4. The present crisis in the South Korean Government might significantly influence enemy intentions and will almost certainly adversely affect the over-all UN situation.

5. Since the time period covered by NIE-55 will expire on 1 July 1952 and because there have been substantial changes in the Korean situation which have not been appreciated in a comprehensive estimate, we believe that a re-estimate of enemy capabilities and intentions in Korea should be undertaken by the IAC without delay. We believe the target date for this estimate should be Thursday, 3 July.

DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

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6. It is anticipated that terms of reference will follow closely those of NIE-55, with particular reference to the points mentioned above.

7. Recommended Action: That the IAC approve initiation of the following estimate and so notify the undersigned by the close of business Wednesday, 11 June (Code 143, Extension 563).

NIE-55/1: Communist Capabilities and Probable Courses of Action in Korea through Mid-1953. Priority: Urgent. Target date: 3 July.

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Executive Secretary

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